

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 19, 2006 ("Office Action"). Claims 1-41 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-23, 26-34 and 37-41 and has objected to Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 24, 25, 35 and 36. To advance prosecution of this case, Applicant amends Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11-17, 19, 21-24, 26, 28, 30, 32-33, 35-37 and 39-41. In addition, Applicant cancels Claims 1, 10, 20 and 29. Applicant does not admit that any amendments are necessary due to any prior art or any of the Examiner's rejections. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 5-6, 15-16, 24-25 and 35-36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicates that Claims 5-6, 15-16, 24-25 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To advance prosecution of this case, Applicant amends each of Claims 5, 15-16, 24 and 35-36 to be in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that Claim 6 depends from amended Claim 5 and that Claim 25 depends from amended Claim 24. Applicant does not admit that the rejection of the respective base claims is proper. Furthermore, Applicant does not admit that the amendments herein are necessary due to any prior art or any of the Examiner's rejections. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5-6, 15-16, 24-25 and 35-36.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-14, 17-18, 20-23, 26-27, 29-34, 37-38 and 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,229,855 B1 issued to Takatori, et al. ("*Takatori*"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4, 7-8, 11-14, 17-18, 21-23, 26-27, 30-34, 37-38 and 40-41.

Pursuant to the claim amendments indicated above, Claims 2-4, 7-8, 11-14, 17-18, 21-23, 26-27, 30-34 and 37-38 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. In addition, Applicant has amended Claims 40 and 41 to recite elements analogous to those of Claims 5 and 35, which the Examiner found to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4, 7-8, 11-14, 17-18, 21-23, 26-27, 30-34, 37-38 and 40-41.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 9, 19, 28 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takatori*. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 9, 19, 28 and 39.

As amended, Claims 9, 19, 28 and 39 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 9, 19, 28 and 39.

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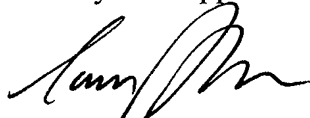
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (214) 953-6581.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$400.00 additional claim fee and to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

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